

**Signpost
992191**

DO NOT MAKE ENTRIES ON THIS SHEET. IT IS FOR DISPLAY ONLY

Student Fee allocations

	16-17 Actual	17-18 Actual	18-19 Budget	19-20 Proposal	19-20 Difference	% 19-20 Difference
Base amount	\$ 136,401	\$ 141,793	\$ 147,317	\$ 147,317	\$ (0)	0%
61000 - Salary	\$ 13,712	\$ 13,986	\$ 14,266	\$ 13,400	\$ (866)	-6%
62000 - Wages	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 3,000	30%
63000 - Benefits	\$ 9,211	\$ 9,642	\$ 9,886	\$ 10,206	\$ 320	3%
71000 - Current Expense	\$ 21,700	\$ 26,387	\$ 11,220	\$ 19,700	\$ 8,480	76%
75000 - Travel	\$ 2,178	\$ 2,178	\$ 8,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 2,000	24%
76000 - Scholarships	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 74,570	\$ 74,511	\$ (59)	0%
77000 - Capital Outlay	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,600	\$ 18,875	\$ 6,000	\$ (12,875)	-68%
Total Expense	\$ 136,401	\$ 141,793	\$ 147,317	\$ 147,317	\$ (0)	0%
One time request				\$ -	\$ -	N/A
Total Request	\$ 136,401	\$ 141,793	\$ 147,317	\$ 147,317	\$ (0)	0%
Carry Forward	\$ (493)	\$ (503)	\$ 7,308	\$ 0	\$ (7,308)	-100%

Notes, including any one-time Carry forward covered \$5399 cash deficit in revenue account; \$1909 will replace computers.

STUDENT FEE RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE FEE REQUEST QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 2019-2020

Department or Program Name: ____The Signpost____

Name & E-Mail: __Jean Norman, jeannorman@weber.edu__

Phone: __x7526 / x7974__ Location: __SU401__

**Return Fee Request (this Questionnaire and the attached Spreadsheet) via email by
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 4 pm to Jennifer Brustad at jenniferbrustad@weber.edu.**

Note: All Student Affairs units must review fee requests with their SAMC representatives prior to submission.

Please respond to all of the following questions in a brief and concise manner (do not exceed 5 pages for questions 1-5).

1. What is your overall mission?

The core mission of *The Signpost*, Weber State University's student news organization, has not changed since 1937, when the newspaper started: It keeps the campus community updated about timely, interesting and important issues. The students, in writing their mission statement earlier this year, wrote that *The Signpost* "passionately and accurately reports what matters to keep the community informed, connected, entertained and involved." In addition to providing information, *The Signpost* serves as a laboratory for students to learn journalistic, photographic, graphic art and business skills applicable to the real world.

In the Depression years before *The Signpost* began publishing, the news was literally posted on a signpost at the center of Weber State's campus. Now the posting is done on our website, on Facebook and Instagram, via Twitter and on the new Weber State mobile app, MyWeberMedia. But the core mission remains the same: inform the campus community. *The Signpost* has shifted to an online-first emphasis and works with Studio 76 and KWCR to share content produced by Weber State students on our new app and on a converged website, mywebermedia.com.

Most importantly, *The Signpost's* news and editorial pages, as well as the comments sections on the website, provide a forum for the free flow of ideas across campus and across various media. Our news pages, calendar and advertising offer clubs and organizations a place to disseminate information about upcoming events, and *The Signpost* news staff covers many of those events. Columns, editorials and letters to the editor discuss issues important to students.

Past and current years of *The Signpost*, now digitally archived by the Stewart Library and Utah Press Association, provide a historical record of Weber State University. This benefits all students, faculty, staff and others who need to research WSU's past and present.

2. What do students gain from participating in your program/facility that contributes to the success of a student's educational experience at Weber State?

A. Benefits to students contributing to *The Signpost*

In a time when facts are called into question and news is called fake, students who work for *The Signpost* learn what it takes to create real, credible news. They learn the pitfalls and experience the satisfaction of a job well done in reporting. They are on the front lines of news literacy. Even if they never work a day in journalism after graduation, these students understand how to discern facts from fiction.

In addition, *The Signpost* provides a safe place to practice the skills and knowledge students are learning in the classroom. *The Signpost* provides students from a variety of majors an opportunity to gain workplace experience in journalism, graphic arts, sales, photography and writing while receiving mentoring that prepares them for internships that will lead them into the real world. It is a teaching environment where they can build their portfolios and develop the work ethic they will need after graduation. It also helps them discover, through the experience of covering campus events, the vitality of the university's student life.

The staff has always welcomed and attracted students from all majors. While the editor-in-chief this year is a journalism major, the two before him were anthropology and Spanish majors. All four graphics artists are studying art. Several copy editors are English majors, as are the news and arts & entertainment editors. Our assistant photo editor is a business major, and one of our newest staff members is an accounting major. *The Signpost* has made a concerted effort to broaden the pool of students, targeting departments outside Communication including but not limited to professional sales, visual arts and Spanish.

The Signpost has also worked to diversify the staff racially and ethnically to reflect the changing student population at Weber State. The staff has actively recruited African-American and Hispanic students, allowing the founding of student chapters of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists two years ago. Students from these chapters participated in a panel at this year's Weber State Diversity Conference. These diverse voices are being encouraged to write about their experiences.

Almost 40 students were on *The Signpost* staff in the fall, and another 25 have contributed articles, photographs and other content in the past year. They are adding to *The Signpost's* diverse voice.

B. Benefits to student readers

The most important benefit *The Signpost* provides to student readers is regular news coverage of

their student government as well as other matters of interest, such as student athletics, club and organization events and other matters of note on and around campus. Two years ago, when the student government closed its executive board meetings to outsiders, *The Signpost* argued that government should always be open to its public. Reporters and sometimes editors attended all meetings, whether they were allowed in the door or not. This year WSUSA changed its bylaws to make executive board meeting open to the public. An important function of the press is to represent the public in long meetings that they may not have time to attend. The media also read agendas of meetings they cannot attend to keep up with issues that affect their audience, the public. *The Signpost* does all of this.

In addition, *The Signpost* publishes several special issues every year to serve Weber State. These include the Orientation issue, Homecoming issue, fall and spring Graduation issues, which print the names of all graduates. *The Signpost* also has a new student edition, Waldo's World, that is distributed during new student orientation to help incoming classes more quickly find out the many opportunities that are available to them at Weber State, and this year it added a financial aid issue to help students find money to attend school.

Many professors across campus expect students to keep up with current events. *The Signpost* provides a source for local current events and helps busy students engage with their campus community. This year the staff launched a news quiz using the Tribune News Service providing eight questions with complete answers each week.

C. Benefits to former students and the community

It's hard to say what makes participants at *The Signpost* consider their time here their most memorable and significant educational experience at Weber State University. Those who have worked at *The Signpost* point to it as a key experience in their college career. Every time I am in the community, I am reminded of the strong and important legacy I represent when I say, "I'm from *The Signpost*." Inevitably, people at the Chamber of Commerce, in City Hall or in a business I am visiting will talk about their experience at *The Signpost* and how it shaped them.

The Signpost's newspapers and news generated from its website link the campus to the larger Ogden community. Reporters cover events in Ogden when they are of interest to Weber State, and *The Signpost* informs Ogden of events at Weber State through our website and distribution in the community. Our crew distributes *The Signpost* to 31 sites off campus, including The Junction, Ogden City Hall, the Ogden Chamber of Commerce and a dozen businesses along Historic 25th Street. In addition, *The Signpost's* new student survival guide, Waldo's World, was distributed to all graduating seniors in Davis and Weber counties last spring, and the newspaper has started a Financial Aid Guide that publishes the first week of November to distribute to high schools during College Application Month. Through a partnership with Ogden School District, *The Signpost* is also available at twice a week at Ogden high schools.

3. Describe, in general, the evaluation process that your program/facility uses to assess your ability to meet your mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Brustad at 626-8904, jenniferbrustad@weber.edu; Dave Taylor at 626-6737, dtaylor@weber.edu; Daniel Kilcrease at 626-6008, dkilcrease@weber.edu; or Brett Perozzi at 626-6008, brettperozzi@weber.edu.